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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 315
By DeBerry J

A RESOLUTION To honor and commend Bishop Gilbert E. "G.E." Patterson, Presiding Bishop of the Church of God in Christ, Incorporated, for his laudable service to the people of Memphis and to Tennessee.

WHEREAS, It is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those venerable persons who, through their great capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, strive to enrich the lives of the people in their respective communities and through whose efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Gilbert E. Patterson is one such extraordinary person, whose life and ministry affirms his commitment to the principles of faith, perseverance, and hard work; and

WHEREAS, Born on September 22, 1939 in Humboldt, Tennessee to Bishop and Mrs. W. A. Patterson, Sr., Gilbert E. Patterson has been a gospel minister for over forty years, having accepted the call at the young age of seventeen, ordained as an elder in the Church of God in Christ in 1957 by Bishop J. S. Bailey in Detroit, Michigan; and

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WHEREAS, A multi-faceted person, Bishop Patterson is a scholar, a minister, a pastor, a visionary, a churchman, and a husband, whose many good works have all been done to the glory of God; and

WHEREAS, Always in pursuit of knowledge and wisdom, Bishop G. E. Patterson is a graduate of Lemoyne-Owen College in Memphis as well as the Detroit Bible Institute; he holds an honorary doctorate from the renowned Oral Roberts University and is a contributing writer for the *Spirit Filled Life Bible* (KJV), edited by Dr. Jack Hayford; and

WHEREAS, In 1975, Bishop Patterson founded the Temple of Deliverance, which has grown to more than 13,000 members on the current roll and has more than 6,000 active members; in May 1999, Bishop Patterson and Temple of Deliverance Church of God in Christ entered their new Worship Center, costing an approximate \$13 Million and seating approximately 5,000 people; and

WHEREAS, Under Bishop Patterson's leadership, Temple of Deliverance Church of God in Christ has become one of the fastest growing congregations in the country, described as "one church in three locations," due to it's three separate facilities; and

WHEREAS, During his ministerial career, Bishop Patterson has organized as many as seven churches across the country; and

WHEREAS, A visionary in his own right, Bishop Patterson is the Founder and President of *Bountiful Blessings Ministries*, a nationwide and internationally broadcast ministry which can be viewed on the BET and TBN cable networks as well as a variety of local television stations throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, He is the Editor and Publisher of the *Bountiful Blessings Magazine*, which has a distribution list of over 100,000 individuals; he also serves as the President and General Manager of WBBP Radio, a 5,000-watt, full-time gospel radio station. As President of Podium Records, a newly formed recording label, Bishop Patterson has witnessed success as their first

project, entitled *Bishop G. E. Patterson Presents Rance Allen and the Soul Winners' Conference Choir*, was nominated for a 1999 Grammy Award; and

WHEREAS, On November 14, 2000, Bishop Patterson was elected as the Presiding Bishop of the Church of God in Christ, Incorporated; as part of the responsibilities in connection with holding the office of Presiding Bishop, Bishop G. E. Patterson also serves as the Chairman of the General Board and President of the Church Corporation; and

WHEREAS, Regardless of his many honors and accolades and being one of the most sought after speakers in the country, G. E. Patterson is most grateful for the love and companionship that he shares with his devoted wife of 33 years, Louise; and

WHEREAS, Seldom does a gentleman of Bishop Patterson's stature walk among us, and it is fitting that he should be specially recognized for his life of purpose and commitment; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we recognize and honor Bishop Gilbert E. Patterson for his commitment and dedication to the citizens of this state, as we salute his outstanding character and his many good works and accomplishments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.